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27 December 1949

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Chief, Services Division
Legal Staff

Parking Space for CIA Employees

1. This is in summary of our conversations in regard to the problem of providing employees with additional parking space in the headquarters area. The first property considered was the small plot where the Lustron Building was exhibited. This is owned by PBA, who at first indicated that it was not surplus to their needs, but that they did not anticipate any difficulty in granting us a license. Later, they refused our request and, in informal conversations, disclosed their reason. They apparently felt it would be prejudicial to the interests of certain Government employees if this space was granted to us without charge, since two other similar areas are now under concession to private contractors, and available for use by Government employees only on payment of a monthly fee. Another area which may be utilized is in the vicinity of Q Building; and PBA has indicated that they would be happy to look for other space on our request.

2. Unfortunately, we have certain basic objections to meet. Lacking the ground, we must obtain it from PBA in either the unimproved or surfaced state. In either case, they are not inclined to grant a permit where the use is not official. The Agency would be required to indicate that a direct benefit would be achieved by acquisition of additional parking space for personnel. In common honesty, we do not believe that the efficient operation of the Agency would be so clearly and directly enhanced by the convenience of parking that an official of the Agency could make such a representation. Parking facilities are clearly inadequate, but they are equally inadequate for other departments of the Government. That may be little solace to the individual concerned, but the remedy lies with Congress, not the administration. The same basic objection applies to surfacing any property which we already hold. Unless the employees' use is incidental to a broader official use of the ground (such as roadway or operational parking) we encounter the same objection in obligating official funds for surfacing.

3. We are, therefore, left with the alternatives of: (1) using property we now hold without obligating funds for its improvement; (2) requesting a specific appropriation from Congress for the acquisition and necessary improvement of such parking area; or (3) requesting PBA to make such space available and advertise for a concession. (In keeping with past practice, we assume PBA would lease the property to such concessionaire who would undertake any improvement of the grounds at his own expense, and rent space to employees on a private basis as indicated above.)

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cc: Subject - Chrono

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